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To Weave a Yarn

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There's Always Time for Something New

Here's one wife who wasn't left behind when her Naval Officer husband began those cross-country flights from Pensacola back in the early 50's. Mrs. Eleanor (Bud) Carlson decided she wouldn't be a flier's grounded wife and began flying lessons and has continued to fly. She can now boast of a recent flight from Miami to San Francisco which she ferried a Piper Cherokee 140, solo.

Flying is not the only hobby or rather accomplishment of Mrs. Carlson, called "Stormie" since college days at Newcombe College of Tulane University. She swims, skis, paints, dances, and plays the piano, organ and tympani. She is more than an avid tennis player. Stormie makes most of her own clothes and has a kiln in her home for her work in ceramics. In addition to these, Stormie has a full-time profession as a pulmonary physiologist for a Monterey thoracic surgeon.

Stormie is equally at home in the water as in the cockpit of her Piper Commanche. She's been swimming since her childhood in Corpus Christi, Texas, where she says she kept her parents busy finding activities for this gal to enter. She was taking music lessons, dancing lessons, and attending every workshop and camp in her area. At Tulane, she took up fencing in addition to her pre-med studies. She also was in the concert band and Alpha Delta Pi Sorority. Her work with these groups still did not take her full energy, and in her spare time she was found on the tennis courts, the pool or attempting a new dance routine.

Her fondness of swimming led her to enter meet after meet, both individually

and as a team member. She served as an instructor of a women's synchronized group in Texas and her most unusual association with swimming came when she taught survival swimming to pilots at Corpus Christi. She has served at various times as a Red Cross Instructor of swimming, life saving and water safety.

She was a primary instigator of the swimming program for dependent children at Moffett Field, in 1954. This program is still in effect and offers dependent children and adults a chance to learn how to safely enjoy the water. At most every duty station, from Pensacola to Barber's Point, Hawaii, Stormie Carlson has helped organize or build-up the swimming programs for dependents. While at Barber's Point she even taught the Hickam Air Force wives how to kick up their heels in the water in addition to assuming her duties as director of the Youth Centers at Barbers Point and Hickam Air Force Base.

Here in the Monterey area, Stormie has taught hula classes to dependent wives and children, and swimming at Del Monte Lodge. Stormie combines her swimming talent and adeptness at Hawaiian dances to create a stunning show with her husband LCDR "Bud" Carlson as master of ceremonies who juggles while he MCs. And a good juggler he is, having played at the Waldorf-Astoria. "Bud," an instructor in the Environmental Sciences Department at USNPGS, holds membership in the American Association of Jugglers. He began juggling while studying at Cornell. We wouldn't want to give any secrets away about the Carl-

son Show, but if ever you see them billed at your favorite club or private party, don't miss the fun.

Skiing is another of Stormie's many hobbies and this one became so enjoyable for both she and Bud, that they bought a home at Tahoe and with two planes in the Carlson family, they can usually find space for friends to join them for ski trips.

The two planes, one a sleek blue and white Piper Commanche and the other a Swift (which Stormie describes as a "pilot's plane" as it is fast and one that women do not usually fly) are kept here in Monterey. While Bud was stationed at Alameda, he commuted in the Swift from Monterey.

Being the owner and pilot of a plane has afforded Stormie opportunities to be of real service in emergencies. Once she was called on to fly parts to a crash scene in Mexico from Monterey. After crossing the border, she needed no translator to aid her in conversing with the Mexican air control tower. Her Spanish was more than acceptable as her French also is. After the plane had been repaired sufficiently to fly, Stormie accompanied the plane back home. She recalls a recent incident at Tahoe when a friend's daughter broke a leg and needed to be flown to medical care.

Stormie and Bud enjoy the opportunities afforded residents of the Monterey Peninsula, and this has been a real home to them. Bud's commuting to Alameda speaks for that. Their home in Monte Vista overlooks the city, and at night while guests sip sake and enjoy Stormie's favorite recipe for teriyaki chicken

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Stormie demonstrates her adeptness at the hula

(cooked at the stone patio grill) they are afforded a spectacular view of the Monterey Bay Area and the lights of the city. (Of course the airport is in full view.)

Greeting guests at the Carlson home is their poodle, Ferrari. Ferrari is also a flying enthusiast, but seems to be doomed to flying as either co-pilot or second officer. Although very talented, Ferrari hasn't learned to converse with the control tower.

Stormie's interests and hobbies are ever increasing, and one is that of sports car driving and races. She once entered and came in second place in the California Powder Horn Hill Climb, Says Stormie, "My driveway provides a good practice climb, but not as treacherous as those." Her second place win came against a bonifide racing car, while she was driving her blue TR-3.

Stormie and Bud make most all their trips by air since acquiring their first

plane back in 1953. "When we fly, we're in no hurry and make frequent stops," reports Stormie on cross-country or other long trips.

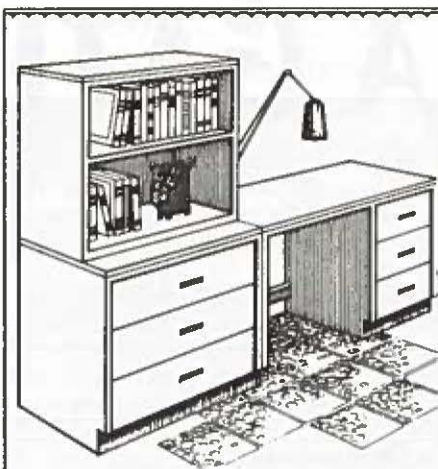
She has never stopped finding challenges in flying since she learned to fly their first plane, a Culver U (a difficult one for a beginner). Currently she is under instruction for instrument flying and then . . . well, she'd make a tremendous captain for a cross-country jet, and who could have misgivings about a flight with a gal as accomplished as this blue-eyed blonde at the controls. They say that stewardesses have done much to give the public more confidence in flying, why not total confidence?

"We enjoy our trips and often we go to beaches further south and dig for clams, have picnics, and fly to out of town tennis matches," Stormie relates.

With her busy schedules (Stormie says she is never on a schedule that isn't tentative) she is not easiest person to locate. We first tried to reach Stormie in January. She was in Texas for a few days visiting relatives. On our next try, we found she had departed for Miami and her solo flight back. Her work is such that she is on 24-hour call and any appointment must be tentative, but at last we reached her. Her day usually consists of early morning sewing or ceramics work, a match of tennis, a swim, then she's off to the airport for a flight to San Jose or Salinas and finally back to Monterey and 5 to 8 hours in her lab.

Speaking as a Navy wife, Stormie urges that wives not feel that they will not be in an area long enough to become involved in activities such as these. There's time and the rewards are many. Stormie passed this advice on to me as she taxied her Piper Commanche into place after our flight to Salinas for lunch and then a delightful air tour of the Monterey Peninsula. To catch up with this gal I went flying with her. All I can say is being with a person as talented, involved and as relaxed as Stormie only makes one feel, aren't we women the greatest. We can do anything.

—Jean Sawhook



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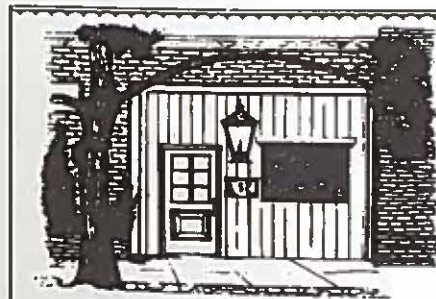
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